

REMARKS

Claims 12-22 are pending and were previously rejected. All rejections have relied upon Hanlan (U.S. Pat. No. 4,361,260, hereinafter "Hanlan") as allegedly teaching all or most elements of the claim. Applicants previously noted that independent claims 12 and 18 each require a plurality of pulling units with adjustable leads. Referring to the claims, it will be appreciated that the claims recite elements such that the web cut registration relies upon local changes in dimension due to the elasticity of the web, induced by circumferential speed changes of at least one of the pulling units, as opposed to simple speed changes in the web as a whole, as performed by Hanlon.

This distinction flows from the express claim language and the elements recited. Thus, as Applicants previously noted, the rollers 25, 26, 27, and 28 of Hanlan do not represent the recited plurality of pulling units. Rather, they represent one pulling unit (rollers 25 and 26 acting together) and a cutting unit (knife 27 acting against roller 28). In response, the Office has stated as follows:

In response to applicant's argument regarding claim 12, where Hanlan (4,361,260), does not teach a plurality of pulling units, the Examiner disagrees. There is no language recited in claim 12, which distinguishes the two pulling units from the cross cutting device. Therefore, one of the pulling units can contain the cross cutting device.

Applicants noted that by the express claim language, the web must be guided *TO* the cross-cutting device, not *VIA* the cross-cutting device. Although the requirement of guiding a web *TO* a cross-cutting device *VIA* at least two pulling units already required that the cross-cutting device is not one of the pulling units, the rejection has persisted.

In the hopes of presenting language that makes the above distinction crystal clear, applicants have amended the claims to this language of explanation. It is respectfully submitted that the prior rejections are now quite plainly inapposite, and allowance of the independent claims is respectfully requested.

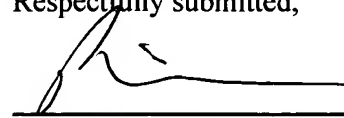
The remaining pending claims, being dependent from one of the above, also incorporate the amended languages. Although a number of the dependent claims were rejected on the basis of Hanlan combined with Jackson, Jackson does not, as noted

previously, teach the use of a plurality of pulling units. It is thus respectfully submitted that the pending dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to the independent claims.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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